

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 04010 080340Z

71

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 080325Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2719

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4010

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, PINS, VE, US

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING: ULTIMATUM TO OWENS-ILLINOIS

REF: STATE 84246, CARACAS 4009

1. O-I VICE PRESIDENT COLEMAN TELEPHONED ME TONIGHT FROM THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT'S OFFICE WHERE HE HAD BEEN FOR SEVERAL HOURS. COLEMAN SAID THAT THE MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE INSISTING THAT THE COMPANY ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ANNOUNCING AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO TALKS WITH THE GOV LEADING TOWARD THE SALE OF O-I'S SUBSIDIARY HERE ON "COMMERCIAL" TERMS. THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE NATIONALIZATION ALONG THE LINES OF THE OIL AND IRON INDUSTRY. I GATHERED THAT THE GOV PURPOSE WAS TO COUNTER PRESS ACCOUNTS ABROAD TO THE EFFECT THAT O-I OF VENEZUELA HAD BEEN "EXPROPRIATED".

2. COLEMAN SAID HE WAS INCLINED TO COMPLY SINCE A COMMITMENT TO "TALKS" DID NOT CLOSE DOWN THE OPTION OF SUBSEQUENTLY REFUSING TO SELL ON THE TERMS OFFERED. HE SEEMED TO BE AWARE OF MY INSTRUCTIONS(REFTEL AND ASKED IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT WOULD AFFECT HIS DECISION. I SAID I THOUGHT NOT BUT THAT IF HE SHOULD DECIDE AGAINST THE STATEMENT HE COULD BE ASSURED OF THE NORMAL ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF THIS EMBASSY.
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WE AGREED TO MEET TOMORROW, AFTER WHICH I WILL REPORT

IN MORE DETAIL.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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